

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00406 071154Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W
-----071247Z 054559 /43
R 071025Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8340

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FOR AF/C AMBASSADOR QUANTON ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SELF-HELP AID FOR LYCEE AT BONBANGUI

1. SECOND VICE PRIME MINISTER MAIDOU, WHO IS NOW ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, CALLED ME TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MARCH 5 TO REQUEST OUR AID FOR A) THE EQUIPPING OF THE ECOLE MATERNELLE AT BOBANGUI AND B) CONSTRUCTION OF A LYCEE AT BOBANGUI. HE SAID HE KNEW THE EMPEROR HAD MENTIONED THESE TO YOU AND WANTED TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST NOW SO THAT YOU COULD PURSUE IT IN WASHINGTON.

2. I NOTED OUR INTEREST IN BOBANGUI, AS SHOWN BY OUR CONSTRUCTION OF THE HEALTH CENTER, WHICH WE HOPED TO INAUGURATE SOON. I OBSERVED THAT WITH THE SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH HIM EARLIER IN THE WEEK AND THE EXPECTED SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE SOCIAL CENTER, WE WOULD ONLY HAVE A FEW THOUSAND DOLLARS LEFT FROM THIS YEAR'S SELF-HELP FUNDS THAT MIGHT BE USED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR THE ECOLE MATERNELLE, AND I REQUESTED A LIST OF WHAT WAS NEEDED. AS FOR THE LYCEE, THERE MIGHT BE YEAR-END MONEY OF FY78 FUNDS, BUT IN ANY CASE THERE WOULD BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE LIKELY SIZE OF THE PROJECT. HE ASKED THAT WE CONSIDER MAKING AN EXCEPTION TO PERMIT US
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TO FINANCE THE WHOLE PROJECT, WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF SIX CLASSROOMS AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS MINIMUM AT THE OUTSET. I PROMISED TO TRANSMIT THE REQUEST TO YOU AND OBSERVED THAT YOU WOULD BE SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR OUR SELF-HELP PROGRAMS IN ANY CASE.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAGNITUDE WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED
WOULD USE UP MOST OF OUR SELF-HELP FUNDS FOR A YEAR,
EVEN IF WE COULD OBTAIN A WAIVER ON THE PROJECT SIZE.
IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE SOME TIME TO REFLECT BEFORE THE
ISSUE WILL BECOME URGENT.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGUI00406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770077-0798
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczde.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cb5f81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3191448
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR SELF-HELP AID FOR LYCEE AT BONBANGUI
TAGS: EAID, ECRE, CT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb5f81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009